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Docket No.: 05-00588-02/AB-349U

Remarks

This is a full and timely response to the final Office Action mailed June 7, 2006 in the present patent application. Applicant submits that this amendment places the claims in condition for allowance. It is earnestly requested that this amendment be considered and entered.

I. Status of Claims

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Office action indicated claims 23-26 are allowed. Claims 1-22 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, of which claims 4, 6, 7, 13, 14, 16 and 20-22 were withdrawn under a previous Restriction Requirement. Claim 25 has been amended to correct an antecedent basis error. New claims 27-41 have been added. Consequently, following entry of this amendment, claims 23-41 are pending, of which allowed claim 23 is independent.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 8-12, 15, and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over the combined teachings of Jog et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0083724) and Cosman (U.S. Patent No. 4,907,589). Without necessarily agreeing with such rejection, but in order to speed the prosecution of the present application to issuance, applicant has canceled claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 8-12, 15, and 17-19, as mentioned above, making the rejection thereto moot. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the canceled claim in a continuing application(s).

III. New Claims 27-41

New, dependent claims 27-41 all depend, directly or indirectly, from allowed, independent claim 23. As such, each of these new claims should also be allowable. Support for the added claims is found at least in paragraphs [0003]-[0009], [0055], [0059]-[0062], and elsewhere throughout the specification.

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IV. Closing Remarks

After entry of this amendment, all pending claims depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 23. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the application are in condition for allowance. Entry of this amendment and final indication of allowance relative to all of pending claims (claims 23-41) is earnestly solicited. In the alternative, if it is deemed that the claims are not in condition for allowance, entry of the amendment is requested, as it narrows the issues for appeal.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Laura H. Bishop, at her convenience should any issues remain after consideration and entry of this response, in order to permit early resolution of the same.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0648. Should such fees be associated with an extension of time, applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

2006 August 07
Date

Respectfully Submitted,

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